

Committee of Concerned Scientists, Inc.

9 East 40 Street
New York, N.Y. 10016
Tel. (212) 686-8862

6/15/81

AQ097A

Dorothy Hirsch
Executive Director

June 15, 1981

President Roberto Viola
Casa Rosada
Balcare 50
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dear President Viola:

We speak on behalf of the Committee of Concerned Scientists which represents 4,000 American scientists dedicated to the protection of human and scientific rights for colleagues throughout the world. Our members are dismayed at the summary dismissal of Dr. Nicolas G. Bazan from his posts as Professor at the National Southern University and Director of its Biochemical Research Institute. We find it deplorable that Dr. Bazan, a world renowned physiologist who has received international acclaim for his work in epilepsy, is barred from teaching at universities in his own country on the basis of an arbitrary government order.

Such treatment violates specific provisions of international agreements to which Argentina is a party. As scientists, we also protest the ouster of our colleague, Dr. Bazan, whose prolific research has significantly advanced scientific scholarship. Denying him the opportunity to conduct his research and teach his findings is a hindrance to scientific progress and an impediment to scientific cooperation between our two countries.

We urge you to reinstate Dr. Bazan to his posts at the National Southern University. Such an action would conform to Argentina's pledge to honor human rights as enunciated in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We look forward to your favorable action in this case.

Sincerely,

Max Gottesman
Cochairman

Mark Kac
Cochairman

Joel Lebowitz
Cochairman

J. Joseph Blum
Medical Sciences
Vice-chairman

George Wald
Nobel Laureate

cc: Minister of Education Juan Rafael Llerena Amadeo
Ricardo Bara, Dean of National Southern University
Ambassador Jorge Aja Espil

Lot 82D275
Box 3541
(2/17)

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